



Western Region Cohesive Strategy Moves Toward Implementation

The WRSC will now begin to focus on an implementation strategy as the Action Plan nears completion. Once that Plan is endorsed by the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC), the challenge will be to begin to incorporate the Cohesive Strategy into the everyday operations of western stakeholders.

Doug “Mac” MacDonald, WRSC Co-Chair, reflects that “the closer we come to finalizing the Action Plan, the greater the interest and angst, and rightly so, from our partners and stakeholders.” Because this latest stage of the development of the Cohesive Strategy (CS) calls for stakeholders to become involved in charting the way forward for the next few years. Given a portfolio of priority actions, clear goals and a vision, what are the steps that we need to take to initiate the program of actions and begin to build momentum to achieve the planned outcomes?

The momentum of the CS now moves from the WRSC and the Work Groups to the stakeholders at the federal, state and local level to perform. How will we begin? Where will assistance come from? Who takes the lead? How will we monitor our performance and make changes along the way when we find a better way of accomplishing the goals? What must be done to “institutionalize” the CS throughout the West? In short, now how do we make it happen?

These are the types of questions that will drive these last “finishing touches”, which will prepare us to implement the Strategy. Mac adds “The choice of lead organizations and collaborators to carry out the actions will be the beginning of implementation and eventual ‘institutionalization’ of the Cohesive Strategy for West.” Continue to follow these monthly updates for more information.



“Just like in the development of FLAME ACT, Phases I, II, and III of the Cohesive Strategy, this is where all of you, once again contribute to the success of the CS and become even more engaged in turning those concepts into outcomes in and around our communities. We not only “own” this dynamic adventure, our generations to come will as well; so together let us take the steps necessary toward a meaningful and successful Cohesive Strategy for the West.”

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Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update February 2013

Last Action Plan Comment Period Closes

The third and final comment period aimed at developing the Western Region Cohesive Strategy Action Plan concluded on February 1. The Western Region Action Plan will detail the goals, objectives, outcome-based performance measures, implementation outcomes, and priority implementation tasks for the Western CS.

The WRSC will now consider stakeholder comments and those from previous comment periods to assist them in the completion of the Regional Action Plan in March.

During this comment period, over 400 comments were received from 83 individuals and organizations. The chart below illustrates the cumulative input to the Action Plan.

| Stakeholder Affiliation | November 2012 | | December 2012 | | January 2013 | | Cumulative Totals | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Federal Government | 1 | 33.3 | 23 | 27 | 21 | 25 | 45 | 26 |
| Tribal | 1 | 33.3 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| State Government | | | 10 | 12 | 22 | 27 | 32 | 19 |
| Local Government | | | 9 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 8 |
| NGO | 1 | 33.3 | 25 | 30 | 14 | 17 | 40 | 23.5 |
| Forest Industry | | | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| Fire Departments | | | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2.5 | 6 | 3.5 |
| Homeowner/Landowner | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2.5 | 3 | 2 |
| Other | | | 8 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Totals | 3 | 100 | 84 | 100 | 83 | 100 | 170 | 100 |

WRSC Seeks Your Help in Implementation Stage

In the spirit of collaboration, the WRSC is seeking volunteer organizations or individuals to provide leadership or expertise in particular actions that have been identified as priorities in the soon-to-be-completed Action Plan. The CS is about implementing a fresh new approach to living with wildfire in the Western US, and it will require a new approach to collaboration at the state and local level, one which can be best facilitated by affected stakeholders.

Volunteers may assist in mentoring new start up collaborative groups; supporting or advising their peers in other locations throughout the west; providing leadership in your state or community; promoting the goals of the strategy; assisting others who may be finding barriers to effectively moving forward; explaining the strategy to others; acting as a liaison among federal, state, and/or local interests; or many other tasks that will emerge as implementation of the Strategy unfolds.

If you or your group is willing to assist in the implementation of the Western Region Cohesive Strategy, feel free to contact Joe Freeland, BLM at jfreeland@blm.gov (208) 387-5163, or Doug MacDonald, IAFC at macdonald.dr@gmail.com (505) 672-4041.

